

Livestock & Livestock Products

All cattle and calves on farms January 1, 2006, in New Jersey totaled 42,000 head, 2,000 head less than the previous year. Value per head increased \$110 from the previous year to \$1,220. The 2006 inventory value was estimated at \$51.2 million, \$2.40 million more than the total of a year ago.

The total number of milk cows and beef cows on January 1, 2006, was 12,000 head and 9,000 head, respectively, with beef cows down 1,000 head from the previous year. Of the total cattle and calf inventory, cows that have calved accounted for 50 percent. Heifers weighing 500 pounds or more totaled 10,000 head, 24 percent of total inventory. Of these, 6,000 were milk cow replacements, 2,000 were beef cow replacements, and 2,000 were intended for slaughter. There were 3,000 steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 7 percent of all cattle and calves. Bulls at 500 pounds and greater numbered 1,000 head or 2 percent of the total inventory. Calves under 500 pounds accounted for the remaining 7,000 animals, 17 percent of all cattle and calves on January 1, 2006. The 2005 calf crop totaled 14,000 head, down 2,000 from 2004.

Milk production in the Garden State totaled 192 million pounds, down 4 percent from the 200 million pounds produced in 2004. The average number of milk cows was 12,000 head, unchanged from the previous year. Milk per cow averaged 16,000 pounds in 2005 compared to 16,667 a year earlier. Value of production of milk totaled \$29.8 million during 2005, compared to \$32.8 million in 2004. The leading milk producing counties were Salem, Sussex, Warren and Gloucester, accounting for 77 percent of the state total.

All hogs and pigs on New Jersey farms totaled 9,000 head on December 1, 2005. This number

was a decrease of 2,000 head from the previous year. Value per head averaged \$110, \$10 dollars less than a year ago.

The total value of the hog and pig inventory value amounted to \$990,000, down \$330,000 from the previous year. Of the total hogs and pigs on farm in the state, 11 percent were kept for breeding and 89 percent were market hogs. The New Jersey pig crop totaled 2,800, down 64 percent from 2004.

Egg production in the Garden State in 2005 decreased to 495 million eggs, compared to 558 million eggs in 2004. Eggs per layer averaged 273, down from 276, the year before. Average layer numbers on New Jersey farms totaled 1.81 million during 2005, compared to the 2.03 million in 2004. In 2005, poultry managers in the state received an average of 49.4 cents per dozen eggs, compared with 62.2 cents in 2004. The value of egg production in 2005 was down 30 percent from 2004 at \$20.4 million.

New Jersey turkey production in 2005 was 37,000 birds, the same as the number of turkeys raised the previous year. Turkey growers received an average price of \$1.19 per pound, 32 cents more than the price in 2004. In 2005, the value of production decreased to \$678,000, down 4 percent from the \$708,000 the year before.

Honey production in 2005 amounted to 384,000 pounds, increasing 19 percent from the 324,000 pounds produced the year before. Beekeepers received an average price of 118 cents per pound in 2005, down 23 cents from the previous year. The value of production fell from the 2004 level of \$457,000 to \$453,000 in 2005.